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Senate

The Senate met at 8:55 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Infinite and merciful God, we magnify and exalt Your Name, for You are great and worthy of our praise. Your splendor, glory, and majesty inspire us. You bless us beyond imagination. Nothing is too challenging for You.

Today, rule in the lives of our lawmakers. Empower them by Your powerful presence and instruct them by Your mighty words. Sustain their health as they seek to solve the problems of our time. Rescue and protect them from seen and unseen dangers. God, who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in power, working wonders and miracles before us each day?

We glorify Your Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 7, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a

Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the good news is that we have accomplished a great deal this week. We have had a number of late nights, but we have completed what we needed to do, and today we are going to complete a very important piece of legislation that will certainly make it unnecessary that we be in late today and certainly not tomorrow.

As I indicated to everyone, we are going to have some votes before noon on Monday. But today, everyone should understand that at 10:15 a.m., we will have a vote. There will be no extending that time. Senator KENNEDY and Senator ENZI have expressed the desire that if people want to speak about this legislation—the vote will take 15 to 20 minutes—Members will have ample opportunity to speak as long as they want to speak on this very important measure.

I look forward to the debate being completed, the vote being completed at 10:15 a.m., and I congratulate both Democrats and Republicans for the work we have been able to accomplish this week.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2669, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2669, an act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there is 75 minutes of debate remaining on the conference report, with the time equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member.

Who yields time?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time under the quorum be equally divided.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I understand from the previous agreement, we have approximately an hour, probably an hour and 12 minutes, that will be equally divided prior to the time of a vote on what has been labeled the College Cost Reduction and Access Act; am I correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. President, first of all, I want to express appreciation to my friend and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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